(b) if so, the composition of the members of the committee and its terms and reference;

(c) whether sale of spurious drugs will be covered under the strict punishable offence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Union Ministry of Health appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Director General of Health Services to suggest remedial measures to combat menace of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs/fake medicines.

(b) The composition of the Members of the Committee consisted of State Drugs Regulatory Authorities, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, Pharma Industry, Indian Drugs Manufacturer Association, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, All India Chemists & Druggist Association, eminent representative of public etc. The Committee was asked to suggest remedial measures to combat menace of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs/fake medicines.

(c) and (d) Section 27 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act prescribes penalty for manufacture, sale etc. of drugs. Any drug deemed to be adulterated under Section 17A or spurious under Section 17B or which when used by any person or in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of any disease or disorder is likely to cause his death or is likely to cause such harm on his body as would amount to grievous hurt within the meaning or Section 320 of IPC solely on account of such drug being adulterated as spurious or not of standard quality, as the case may be shall be punishable with the imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 5 years but which may extend to a term of life and with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000.

Death of infants due to lack of proper care

†69. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 24 lakhs infants below the age of five year die due to lack of proper care every year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the effective steps Government have taken to resolve the said problem; and

(c) the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the latest available estimates of Sample Registration System, 1999 by Registrar General of India the Number of Child death is 22 lakhs.

(b) and (c) Sir, Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, Interventions for bringing down child mortality and morbidity are being implemented in all districts of the country. Interventions for children include Immunization against six vaccine preventable disease; control of deaths due to Diarrhoea; control of Acute Respiratory Infection; Prophylaxis against Vitamin A deficiency; and Iron deficiency anaemia; Essential Newborn care; Promotion of exclusive Breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices are being advocated.

Amount spent on repair of machines in Dr. RML Hospital

†70. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of machines got repaired in the Dental Department of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi during the last year along with the amount spent on each machine;

(b) whether Government are aware that the HOD has been issuing certificates that the machines are in working condition, whereas the machines are not in working condition;

(c) if so, the action Government have taken against the HOD who has issued the fake certificates while the machines are out-of-order; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The following machines were got repaired in the dental department of Dr. RML Hospital during the last year

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.